



PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)			Complete if Known		
			Application Number	09/998,621	
			Filing Date	November 30, 2001	
			First Named Inventor	Masato Takahashi	
			Art Unit	3727	
			Examiner Name	R. A. Hylton	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	03404/000K075-USO

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
RAK	BA	JP-57-34141 /	07-28-1982	Japan Oil-Seal Kogyo K. K.		✓
	BB	JP-10-120043 /	05-12-1998	Mizoguchi Kyoko		✓
	BC	JP-2-73151 /	06-04-1990	Misako Kumanomido		✓
	BD	JP-11-299646 /	11-02-1999	Nikkei Products K.K.		✓
	BE	JP-46-36225 /	12-13-1971	Zenzo Homma		✓
	BF	JP-58-82366 /	06-03-1983	K.K. Ejirri		✓
	BG	JP-7-48200 /	11-08-1995	Zojirushi Corporation		✓
	BH	JP-06-078851 /	03-22-1994	Riken Light Metal Ind. Co. Ltd.		✓
RAK	BI	JP-4-30128 /	07-21-1992	Calsonic K. K.		✓

RECEIVED
FEB 25 2004
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Code of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
→	CA	November 18, 2003 Japanese Office Action (with English abstract) (Listed references 1-9 correspond to above listed references)	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	4/28/04
-----------------------	--	--------------------	---------